

Message Text

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44-S

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 INR-07 NSC-05 CIAE-00 EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1136

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

DIA WASHDC

S E C R E T QUITO 5700

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PINT PFOR EC ENRG

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT POVEDA CONTINUES IN CONTROL OF GOE

REF: QUITO 5652

1. PRESIDENT POVEDA INFORMED THE AMBASSADOR IN A PRIVATE MEETING ON THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 11 THAT THE SUPREME COUNCIL WAS SECURE IN ITS CONTROL OF THE GOVT AND ARMED FORCES. HE AGAIN ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE HAD BEEN PROBLEMS AND MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY DIFFERENCES WITH COL. PINEIROS, THE DIRECTOR OF THE ECUADOREAN STATE PETROLEUM CORPORATION (CEPE), OVER THE ISSUE OF THE CONTRACT FOR THE ESMERALDAS PORT TERMINAL. POVEDA APPEARED CONFIDENT IN HIS ASSURANCES THAT THE SUPREME COUNCIL WAS FIRMLY IN THE SADDLE.

2. DCM AND NAVATT ALSO MET WITH CAPT. HUGO GARCES, SEC GEN FOR THE ADMINISTRATION, ON THE EVENING OF AUGUST 11. GARCES ALSO TOLD EMBOFFS THAT SUPREME COUNCIL WAS WELL IN CONTROL OF GOVT, ALTHOUGH HE TOO SAID THERE HAD BEEN SOME PROBLEMS WITHIN TOP LEVELS OF MILITARY GOVT. HE SAID THESE PROBLEMS WERE BEING RESOLVED, AND THAT DIFFERENCES WITHIN THE MEETINGS HAD BEEN EXAGGERATED AND DISTORTED BY THE EVER-ACTIVE QUITO RUMOR MILL.

3. GARCES STATED THAT THE SUPREME COUNCIL REMAINED FIRM

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IN ITS DECISION TO REMOVE MINISTER OF RESOURCES, COL. RENE

VARGAS, AND DIRECTOR OF CEPE, COL. PINEIROS, FROM THEIR JOBS. HE SAID THE COUNCIL NOW FELT EVEN MORE STRONGLY ABOUT REMOVING PINEIROS THAN VARGAS. GARCES LAMENTED THAT THE SUPREME COUNCIL WOULD NOW BE UNABLE TO EFFECT THESE CHANGES UNTIL SOMETIME IN SEPT, HOWEVER. HE SAID THE COUNCIL HAD INTENDED TO REMOVE VARGAS AND PINEIROS IN AUGUST BUT THAT THE RECENT PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC MANIFESTATIONS CAUSED BY THE "RUTH INCIDENT" WOULD NOT ENABLE THE COUNCIL TO TAKE DECISIVE ACTION IMMEDIATELY.

4. COMMENT: MISSION BELIEVES THAT CRISIS WITHIN TOP LEVELS OF GOE RESULTING FROM DIFFERENCES BETWEEN COL. PINEIROS AND THE SUPREME COUNCIL HAS SUBSIDED AND THAT SUPREME COUNCIL HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL, AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING, IN COUNTERING THREATS TO ITS RULE.
BLOOMFIELD

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